

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02353 090001Z
ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02353

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PORG, UNGA, XC
SUBJECT: SSOD - VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL ON ZONE OF PEACE
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION HAS SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT
(SSOD), IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM OF WORK, A
DOCUMENT (A/S-10/AC.1/10 DATED JUNE 5, 1978) SETTING
FORTH THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT BELIEVES THE "DEFINITION
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02353 090001Z

OF A ZONE OF PEACE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA" SHOULD BE BASED.
IN ADVOCATING SUCH A ZONE OF PEACE, VIETNAM REITERATES
ITS VIEW THAT EVERY ZONE OF PEACE SHOULD BE
CLEARLY DEFINED AND AGREED UPON BY THE COUNTRIES
CONCERNED. ITS DOCUMENT STATES THAT THE FOLLOWING FOUR
PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN AGREED BY THE SRV AND "MANY
OTHER COUNTRIES IN SEA AS A BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

AND STRENGTHENING OF THEIR MUTUAL RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

2. THE FOUR PRINCIPLES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-AGGRESSION, NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, EQUALITY, MUTUAL BENEFIT AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE;

2. NOT TO ALLOW FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO USE ONE'S TERRITORY AS A BASE FOR DIRECT OR INDIRECT AGGRESSION AND INTERVENTION AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES IN THE REGION;

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY AND GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS, ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION THROUGH NEGOTIATION IN A SPIRIT OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT;

4. DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION FOR THE BUILDING OF PROSPEROUS COUNTRIES IN KEEPING WITH EACH COUNTRY'S SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR THE BENEFITS OF GENUINE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02353 090001Z

INDEPENDENCE, PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND, THEREBY, TO PEACE IN THE WORLD. END TEXT.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. ASEAN REPS AT LUNCH JUNE 6 TOLD POLMIN THAT THEY WERE EXCITED BY THE UNEXPECTED CIRCULATION OF THE VIETNAMESE STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF A SEA ZONE OF PEACE. THEY SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD NATURALLY BE SLOW TO COMMENT PUBLICLY, PENDING THEIR STUDY OF THE FORM OF THE VIETNAMESE STATEMENT AND THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MOVE IN TERMS OF BROADER SEA RELATIONSHIPS. THEIR INITIAL REACTION, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE VIETNAMESE INITIATIVE REPRESENTS A VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A ZONE OF PEACE, AND POSSIBLY THE OPENING OF A NEW PERIOD OF MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REGION.

4. THEY ALL SPECULATED THAT VIETNAM IS REFLECTING ITS CONCERN ABOUT TENSIONS WITH THE PRC, CONTINUING

TROUBLES WITH CAMBODIA AND LAOS AND REQUIREMENTS
EMERGING FROM PLANNING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
THEY NOTED THAT THE ONLY NEGATIVE QUESTION IS PROMPTED
BY THE OMISSION BY THE VIETNAMESE OF MENTION OF THE
NOTION OF "FREEDOM", WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN THE
ORIGINAL ASEAN FOURPOINT STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
FOR THE REGION. THEY ASSUMED THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD
NOTE THIS OMISSION AND MARK IT DOWN FOR
FURTHER CONSIDERATION, BUT BRUSH PAST IT TO WELCOME
WARMLY THE VIETNAMESE INITIATIVE. YOUNG

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